

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

(Letters addressed to Professor Massey must have stamp inclosed for answer.)



W. F. Massey, weeder crosswise?

Thursday, April 9, 1914.

Peanuts and Lime.

Dear Sir: Please answer the following in the Times-Dispatch.

1. Which do you think the better for peanuts on medium good land, the 4 percent potash lime, which costs \$10 per ton, or acid phosphate, which costs \$12 per ton, and which is about one-third of the latter to furnish potash?

2. Which is the best way to cultivate peanuts in wire grassy land? How about covering them up as the grass approaches and running a weeder crosswise?

3. Do you believe that dark tobacco wrappers can be made where black cowpeas have been planted, and the seed picked? Land a dark loam with clay subsoil.

4. What do you think of 3-5-3 tobacco fertilizers, with 100 pounds of muriate of potash added to the ton, and manure is also used on the land after wheat?

5. What do you think of the mixture of guano, known as bone and potash, for corn?

1. We do not use lime as a fertilizer, and if the land needs lime, you had better get fresh lime and slake it for yourself. Good lump lime will slake two or more times its bulk, and this slaked lime will be just as good as the lime used to mix with potash, and you can buy the two cheaper than in the mixture. Then, mixing acid phosphate and lime, if the ashes are good hardwood ashes, the lime in them will revert the phosphoric acid and make it less soluble. Then you have no guarantee of the percentage of potash in the ashes, and it will be better to use sulphate of potash if you need acid phosphate. But you can get all the lime needed for the peanuts in the Thomas phosphate or lime slake. This is not so readily available as acid phosphate, but it will make peanuts with the addition of a little nitrate of soda, to give it a start, and potash, as I have heretofore suggested, as a peanut fertilizer.

2. The best way would be to first get rid of the wire grass in the land and have clean land for the peanuts. The weeder, I fear, would simply cultivate the grass. You can clear land of wire grass, for I have done it with smothering crops of peas.

3. Whether you can grow dark tobacco wrappers or not depends on the nature of your soil, but on the best land in Nelson County, or deep red land, they turn clover, the whole amount crop of red clover, to make black wrappers, and they make them. If your land is suited to making dark tobacco, the peas will not prevent your making wrappers.

4. The 3-5-3 fertilizer is a low grade article for tobacco, but if the potash in it is from sulphate, and manure is used, it will answer very well if more potash is added, as sulphate, but not much, as you suggest. Muriate of potash, or more properly chloride of potash, should never be used on tobacco, as it injures the burning quality of the leaf, and tends to keep the tobacco green too late.

5. I do not know of any such "Guano." Guano is the decomposed excrement of sea birds from rainless islands of South America, and we do not get it any more. We have chemical fertilizers, but no guano. The mixture of phosphoric acid and potash, known as bone and potash, as a rule, has no bone in it at all, but is simply acid phosphate and potash, and none the worse from having no bone. But they call it bone because farmers have a notion that the phosphoric acid from bone is better than that from rock. Phosphoric acid is one and the same thing, whether from bone or rock, and the only thing to concern us is its availability. If the land needs potash, the mixture will be very well on corn, but on our red lands, if the farmer has a right notion, he maintains the humus in his soil, and times it occasionally, there will never be any need to buy potash. The red clay soil will usually contain a good deal of potash, and can be made available by turning under clover, and once in five or six years liming the soil. Your sixth question is entirely out of my line, and is one that no one could answer, even if it was of any value to answer.

Fertilizing Peanuts.

Dear Sir: Please answer the following in the Times-Dispatch, and read your farmers' page regularly. I have about twenty acres in rice, which I expect to turn under and plant Spanish peanuts. I note what you say in regard to the using of 500 pounds of acid phosphate, fifty pounds of nitrate of soda and fifty pounds of muriate of potash an acre. Must we apply this broadcast or in the rows? Must we mix all together or sow separately? When will it be best to apply it, after the rice is mowed and before the rice has not. I see no difference in the peanuts, about one-fourth pods all over. Must I lime this land or not? If so, on the rice or after planting? Which is the best acid phosphate, the 14 percent or the 16 percent? You seem to have read rather carefully what I have written.

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LIFELONG SERIES OF HONEYMOONS

Mrs. Pence Brings Charges

Against Husband and Mrs. Lillian N. Duke.

GETS DECREE OF DIVORCE

Will Sue Former Wife of Tobacco Magnate for Alienation of Affection.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

New York, April 8.—Stories of luxuriously furnished apartments on Riverside Drive, costly gifts, Southern and ocean trips and jaunts into the country, all of these shared by Lafayette N. Pence, former Congressman from Colorado, and Lillian N. Duke, divorced wife of the tobacco millionaire, earned for Mrs. Katherine Soper Pence an interlocutory decree of divorce, handed down by Justice Scudder today.

It was not Mrs. Duke's first appearance in the divorce court. She was divorced in 1912 by William McGreevy, a Harlem coffee broker, and in 1909 by James E. Duke, head of the tobacco trust. She lived with Duke less than a year, and he is reported to have given her \$500,000 when they separated.

Mrs. Pence will begin a suit for \$150,000 against Mrs. Duke, charging alienation of Pence's affections as soon as her decree is made final. In her complaint and testimony, Mrs. Pence charged that the life of her husband and Mrs. Duke has been "a series of honeymoons" ever since they met in the fall of 1911, when Pence opened a law office in Washington and Mrs. Duke became his first client.

Four days after he met her, Pence left his wife for Mrs. Duke, and they have since been together in New York, Washington and various Southern resorts.

Engaged Detective.

In September, 1913, Mrs. Pence engaged detectives, who, through the aid of bull boys and telephone operators, discovered that Pence and Mrs. Duke were living in the Belmont, on upper Broadway. From there, finding they were watched, they fled to Washington and took apartments at the Ebbetts House. In the spring they went to Cuba.

Later Mrs. Pence averred, her husband came back to New York with Mrs. Duke and took an apartment in the Clifton, No. 64 Riverside Drive. Mrs. Duke, in court, said she married Pence, so his wife testified, received numerous costly presents from her. Efforts to obtain additional evidence at the Clifton failed, as Mrs. Duke had upped all the servants liberally.

"Their life together," said Mrs. Pence, "was one long series of honeymoons. They enjoyed themselves at my expense."

"My husband tried to get me to secure a divorce in 1911, and went so far as to bring a witness here from Colorado, but I was suspicious of his lawyers, and refused to go through with it. He offered me \$12,000 down and \$2,000 a year."

"The one reason I hate to divorce him is that now Mrs. Duke can marry him. She has been boasting, I hear, that she will be the wife of an American ambassador, and I hate to let her have her way. Anyway, I think I am entitled to \$150,000, at least, for the way I have been treated."

Mrs. Pence was Katherine Soper, of Georgetown, Ky., one of the two beautiful daughters of Colonel Robert Soper. She inherited a fortune from her father. In 1888 she married Pence, then a member of the Colorado Legislature. He later became district attorney of Denver, and was elected to Congress on the Populist ticket. He is secretary of the National League of Democratic Clubs.

Police Are Banned.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Lynchburg, Va., April 8.—The police department here is at its wits end to tobacco dealers a game of hide-and-seek, which has been playing in a most successful manner during the past few months. Most of the stealing is provisions in private homes, but occasionally jewelry is reported missing. It is believed that at least fifty homes have been robbed in the city and its suburbs since winter began.

Negro Is Convicted.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Lynchburg, Va., April 8.—Robert Stratton, colored, has been convicted in the Corporation Court here of breaking into the store of D. Moses & Co. for the purpose of robbery. The jury fixed his punishment at one year in prison. Stratton will be tried at the May term on the charge of dynamiting the safe of the Lynchburg Foundry Company here several months ago.

Child to Assist Byrd.

Richmond, Va., April 8.—Byrd, who has been appointed United States attorney for the Western District of Virginia, has in appointment by the Attorney-General as his assistant. The appointment is always made on the recommendation of the district attorney. Mr. Byrd said yesterday that he was delighted to accept the position, and would serve, as he regards him most highly.

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SEARCH FOR LAST OF BANDIT GANG

Six Men Already Killed or Captured Following Raid on New Hazleton Bank.

New Hazleton, B. C., April 8.—Every citizen of New Hazleton, capable of bearing a rifle was out today searching for the last man of the bandit gang which yesterday raided the branch of the Union Bank of Canada here. Six men have been captured or killed. The one still free, and who may have the \$1,100 taken from the bank, is believed to have been wounded, and his capture is expected. An eighth man has been arrested as a suspect, as he was seen with the gang early yesterday.

Manager Tatchell, of the bank, said today he saw the desperado enter the bank, and when he heard their first shots he summoned a dozen men who speedily got their rifles into play. There was a pile of ore heaped breast high on Fugate Street not fifty yards from the bank and behind this the posse gathered. They opened fire as the robbers emerged from the front door of the bank.

Three of the robbers fell before they reached shelter. Two men were wounded, but reached the summit of the hill at the edge of the town before they fell. Two of the first men to fall were killed almost instantly. Three others are in the hospital, while one who was captured in the woods late yesterday is in jail.

One of the men in the hospital was shot through the stomach and cannot recover. Another's hip was badly torn, and the third had his arms so shattered by bullets that he may lose both.

PLUNGE FOUR STORIES, ESCAPES WITH BRUISES

Roanoke, Va., April 8.—After D. McDaniel plunged headlong from the fourth story of a new building here today and the heavy scaffolding on which he had been working dashed down upon him, he got up, brushed his clothing and walked quietly away. Right bruises were his only injuries.

FRANK EXAMINED BY SIX PHYSICIANS

Visits Said to Have Been Made at Instance of Detective Burns.

Atlanta, Ga., April 8.—Six physicians of Atlanta have examined Leo M. Frank, under sentence of death for the murder of Mary Phagan, fourteen years old, within the last twenty-four hours, it was made known here tonight.

None of the physicians would discuss the purpose of the visit, or the examination of the convicted man, who is making a final effort to obtain a new trial. It was said the visits of the physicians were made at the instance of William J. Burns, the detective, who is investigating the case.

The detective has announced that he believed the crime was committed by a moral pervert. Published statements accredited to him quote him as saying that he does not believe Frank to be an abnormal man. Burns is preparing a full report of his inquiries, which is expected to be made public the latter part of this week.

Hugh M. Dorsey, solicitor-general, who conducted the prosecution of Frank, and the detective held a conference today, the result of which was kept secret. Burns also said that he expected soon to confer with James Conley, the negro factory sweeper, who was the chief witness against the young factory superintendent, and who was convicted as an accessory to the murder. Conley was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Frank is sentenced to be hanged one week from Friday. On next Thursday his attorneys will file an extraordinary motion for a new trial, which will

automatically stay the execution. Previous efforts to obtain a new trial for the convicted man have failed in both the Superior Court and the State Supreme Court.

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